

REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL TO THE KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE AND THE COUNCIL ON MPOFANA MUNICIPALITY

REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Introduction

1. I have audited the financial statements of the Mpozana Municipality set out on pages xx to xx, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2012, the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets and the cash flow statement for the year then ended, and the notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Accounting officer's responsibility for the financial statements

2. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the South African Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practice (SA Standards of GRAP) and the requirements of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act of South Africa, 2003 (Act No. 56 of 2003) (MFMA) and the Division of Revenue Act of South Africa, 2011 (Act No. 6 of 2011) (DoRA), and for such internal control as the accounting officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor-General's responsibility

3. My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with the Public Audit Act of South Africa, 2004 (Act No. 25 of 2004) (PAA), the *General Notice* issued in terms thereof and International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.
4. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the municipality's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the municipality's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.
5. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

6. In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Mpozana Municipality as at 30 June 2012 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the SA Standards of GRAP and the requirements of the MFMA and DoRA.

Emphasis of matters

7. I draw attention to the matters below. My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

Material losses and impairments

8. As disclosed in the note 10 to the financial statements, the municipality has provided for bad debts impairment amounting to R64,555 million, as the recoverability thereof was doubtful.
9. As disclosed in the note 51 to the financial statements, the municipality incurred electricity losses of R8,354 million (15 042 899 kilowatts).

Additional matter

10. I draw attention to the matter below. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Unaudited supplementary schedules

11. The supplementary information set out on pages xx to xx does not form part of the financial statements and is presented as additional information. I have not audited these schedule(s) and, accordingly, I do not express an opinion thereon.

REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

12. In accordance with the PAA and the *General Notice* issued in terms thereof, I report the following findings relevant to performance against predetermined objectives, compliance with laws and regulations and internal control, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion.

Predetermined objectives

13. I performed procedures to obtain evidence about the usefulness and reliability of the information in the annual performance report as set out on pages xx to xx of the annual report.
14. The reported performance against predetermined objectives was evaluated against the overall criteria of usefulness and reliability. The usefulness of information in the annual performance report relates to whether it is presented in accordance with the National Treasury annual reporting principles and whether the reported performance is consistent with the planned objectives. The usefulness of information further relates to whether indicators and targets are measurable (i.e. well defined, verifiable, specific, measurable and time bound) and relevant as required by the *National Treasury Framework for managing programme performance information*. The reliability of the information in respect of the selected objectives is assessed to determine whether it adequately reflects the facts (i.e. whether it is valid, accurate and complete).
15. The material findings are as follows concerning the usefulness of the information.

Usefulness of information

Presentation

16. Improvement measures in the annual performance report for a total of 100% of the planned targets not achieved were not disclosed as required by section 46 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, 2000 (Act No.32 of 2000) (MSA). This was due to inadequate internal policies and procedures over the processes pertaining to the reporting of performance information.

Consistency

17. The MSA, section 41(c) requires that the integrated development plan should form the basis for the annual report, therefore requiring the consistency of objectives, indicators and targets between planning and reporting documents. A total of 78% of the planned objectives, 100% of indicators and 100% of targets are not consistent with the objectives, indicators and targets as per the approved annual performance report relative to the integrated MSA.

Compliance with laws and regulations

18. I performed procedures to obtain evidence that the municipality has complied with applicable laws and regulations regarding financial matters, financial management and other related matters. My findings on material non-compliance with specific matters in key applicable laws and regulations as set out in the *General Notice* issued in terms of the PAA are as follows:

Expenditure management

19. Money owing by the municipality was not always paid within 30 days of receiving an invoice or statement, as required by section 65(2)(e) of the MFMA.

Procurement and contract management

20. Awards were made to providers who are persons in service of other state institutions or whose directors/ principal shareholders are persons in service of other state institutions, in contravention of Local Government: Municipal Supply Chain Management Regulation 44.

Internal audit

21. The internal audit unit did not audit the performance measurements on a continuous basis and submitted quarterly reports on their audits to the accounting officer and the performance audit committee, as required by Municipal Planning and Performance Management Regulation 14(1) (c).

Internal control

22. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the financial statements, annual performance report and compliance with laws and regulations. The matters reported below under the fundamentals of internal control are limited to the significant deficiencies that resulted in, the findings on the annual performance report and the findings on compliance with laws and regulations included in this report.

Leadership

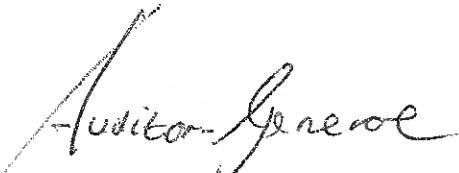
23. The accounting officer did not exercise adequate oversight over financial and performance reporting and compliance as well as internal control. In this regard, the accounting officer did not periodically assess whether staff members had essential skills and knowledge to support the achievement of credible reporting.

Financial and performance management

24. Adequate processes were not in place to communicate timely and relevant information to those charged with governance, in that monthly reporting of financial and performance results was not effective. This is evidenced by the findings on performance management that arose during the audit.

Governance

25. The internal audit unit did not promote accountability and service delivery through evaluating and monitoring responses to risks and providing oversight over the effectiveness of the internal control environment including performance reporting and compliance with laws and regulations.


Pietermaritzburg

30 November 2012



AUDITOR - GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA

Auditing to build public confidence